IN THE CLAIMS

This is a complete and current listing of the claims, marked with status identifiers in parentheses. The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A control input circuit ~~(6)~~ for an electrical appliance ~~(1)~~, ~~having~~ comprising:

a constant current sink, ~~(7) which is~~ connected into a control line, ~~(2) and~~ whose drawn current ~~(Ia)~~ assumes a detection value ~~(I1)~~ during the length ~~(t1)~~ of a detection pulse ~~(P)~~, ~~whereas~~ the drawn current ~~(Ia) is~~being lowered between two successive detection pulses ~~(P),~~; and ~~also having~~

an evaluation module ~~(15) which analyzes~~to analyze the input current ~~(Ie)~~ flowing in the control line ~~(2)~~ and ~~which indicates~~to indicate a control signal ~~(S)~~ if during the detection pulse, ~~(P)~~ the input current ~~(Ie)~~ is not below a prescribed turned-on value for a prescribed turned-on period.

2. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the constant current sink (7) has~~ an actuation module is ~~(13)~~ connected to the constant current sink~~it~~, which prescribes the magnitude of the drawn current ~~(Ia)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the actuation module ~~(13)~~ is an oscillator circuit whose total resistance ~~(RS)~~ alternates discretely between two values.

4. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~,

~~characterized in that~~wherein the actuation module ~~(13) comprises~~includes a microprocessor~~(20)~~.

5. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the constant current sink (7) has~~ a diode is ~~(D1)~~ connected upstream of the constant current sink~~it~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 5~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the evaluation module ~~(15)~~ comprises an RC element~~(16)~~.

7. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 6, ~~characterized in that~~wherein ~~the RC element (16) has~~ a threshold circuit, ~~(17)~~ connected upstream of the RC element, ~~it which~~ permits a flow of current to the RC element ~~(16)~~ only if the input current ~~(Ie)~~ exceeds the turned-on value.

8. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 7~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the constant current sink ~~(7)~~ comprises a field effect transistor~~(T1)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the detection pulses ~~(P)~~ are periodically successive in time.

10. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 9, ~~characterized in that~~wherein, when the control signal ~~(S)~~ is in the form of a control voltage ~~(Ust)~~ which alternates over time, the period of the detection pulses

~~(P)~~ is coordinated with the phase of the control voltage ~~(Ust)~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~wherein a respective detection pulse ~~(P)~~ starts in coordination with each positive half cycle of the control voltage ~~(Ust)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 11~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the drawn current ~~(Ia)~~ of the constant current sink ~~(7)~~ between two successive detection pulses ~~(P)~~ is lowered by at least a factor of 10 in comparison with the detection value ~~(I1)~~.

13. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 12~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the turned-on value of the input current ~~(Ie)~~ corresponds to approximately 85% of the detection value ~~(I1)~~.

14. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 13~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the turned-on period is at least 70% of the length ~~(t1)~~ of the detection pulse ~~(P)~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1 ~~to 14~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the length ~~(t2)~~ of the period of time between two successive detection pulses ~~(P)~~ exceeds the length ~~(t1)~~ of the ~~or each~~ detection pulse ~~(P)~~ by at least twofold.

16. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 15~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the detection value ~~(I1)~~ is approximately 8 mA.

17. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 16~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein the length ~~(t1)~~ of a detection pulse ~~(P)~~ is approximately 4 ms.

18. (Currently Amended) The control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 17~~, ~~characterized in that~~wherein at least one of ~~—~~the actuation module ~~(13)~~ and~~/or~~ the evaluation module ~~(15)~~ are in the form of an integrated circuit.

19. (Currently Amended) An electrical appliance ~~(1)~~ comprising~~having~~ a control input circuit ~~(6)~~ as claimed in ~~one of~~ claim~~s~~ 1~~ to 17~~.

20. (New) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuation module is an oscillator circuit whose total resistance alternates discretely between two values.

21. (New) The control input circuit as claimed in claim 2, wherein the actuation module includes a microprocessor.